Food stocks available in the country

802. MISS. SAROJ KHAPARDE:
SHRI R. T. GOPALAN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of foodgrains available in the country at present:

(b) whether foodgrains are available according to the requirement of the country;

(c) if not, what steps Government propose to take in this regard, and whether foodgrains are likely to be imported; and

(d) if so, the quantity to be imported and at what rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) The estimated stocks of foodgrains (rice, wheat and Coarse grains) with the public agencies as on 1st August, 1991, inclusive of stocks reportedly held by the State Government, were of the order of 19.31 million tonnes.

(b) Demand for foodgrains at any given point of time depends upon population characteristics, production, availability, income distribution, prices, consumption habits, availability of substitutes, etc.

By and large the internal demand for foodgrains is met from domestic production.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present to import foodgrains.

Export of Foodgrains

803. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exported foodgrains during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to export foodgrains during the current year; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached. (See below).

(c) The export of basmati rice is on O.G.L. (Open General Licence). A ceiling of 7.0 lakh tonnes of non-Basmati rice and 10.00 lakh tonnes of wheat for export during the current year has been released by the Government.

Statement

Exports (Including export in Government account) of Food Grains, (wheat, Basmati Rice and Non-Basmati Rice) during the last three years.

(Quantity in MTs)

Item	Year 1988-89	1989-90	1990-91
Wheat	..	..	2,11,025
Basmati rice	3,49,687	3,96,900	2,41,830
Non-Basmati rice	35,753	26,710	3,13,720